

## Message Text

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13-12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 125216

R 170531Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1205

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0119

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PP

SUBJECT: BOUGAINVILLE

1. AUSTRALIAN MISSION POLOFF RECENTLY PROVIDED FOLLOWING OVERALL ASSESSMENT BOUGAINVILLE SITUATION DERIVED FROM HIS OBSERVATIONS DURING VISIT THERE FROM JANUARY 19-30 WHICH INCLUDED PERIOD OF DISTURBANCES.

(A) PRESS EXAGGERATED TONE OF DISTURBANCES BY USING TERMS SUCH AS "REVOLUTIONARY MASSES", ETC. INCIDENTS WERE WELL PLANNED AND LIMITED TO SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF SECESSIONIST LEADERSHIP (ESSENTIALLY DESTROYING JAILS AND GOVT OFFICE BUILDINGS).

(B) SECESSIONISTS HAVE ESSENTIALLY WON "HEARTS AND MINDS" CAMPAIGN ON GRASS ROOTS LEVEL AND HAVE BEGUN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH PARALLEL GOVT TO THAT OF GPNG ON LOCAL LEVEL. NEVERTHELESS THERE REMAINS MUCH TO BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE SECESSIONISTS CAN HOPE TO GOVERN. ESTIMATE 50 PERCENT OF LOCAL COUNCIL TAXES NOW GOING TO SECESSIONISTS BUT THIS ONLY FRACTION OF REVENUE REQUIRED TO RUN EFFECTIVE PROVINCIAL GOVT. SITUATION FAR FROM ONE CONTAINING SEETHING REVOLUTIONARY MASSES IN REVOLT, ETC.

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C) GOVERNMENT POSITION ON ISLAND IS STEADILY ERODING, A FACT

WHICH HAS FINALLY PENETRATED THE UPPER POLITICAL LEVELS OF PNG LEADERSHIP.

(D) MOMIS AND SAREI CAN CONTAIN THE MORE EXTREME POSITIONS OF HANNETT SINCE THE LATTER CANNOT AFFORD TO BE ISOLATED ON AN EXTREME FLANK. BOTH MOMIS AND SAREI ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO A NON-VIOLENT APPROACH.

(E) IF GPNG READY TO MAKE MAJOR CONCESSIONS RE BOUGAINVILLE PROVINCIAL GOVT MORE OR LESS ALONG LINES OF ORIGINAL CONSTITUTIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT, A SETTLEMENT COULD BE REACHED. SUCH A SETTLEMENT WOULD NOT BE FINAL, HOWEVER, AND PROVINCIAL LEADERS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY LATER MAKE NEW DEMANDS.

(F) IF GPNG NOT WILLING TO MAKE MEANINGFUL CONCESSIONS AT THIS TIME, MOMIS AND SAREI COULD BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE ALONG PATH TO SEPARATION DESPITE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED VIOLENCE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SECESSION, PERSONAL OPINION, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BOUGAINVILLE  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, PP, AS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006